

The Electric Mercury

U.S. Army Medical Command Electronic News Summary, October 2001

**For more on these and other important stories, see October 2001 printed issue of The Mercury.
This is a service of the Public Affairs Office, Headquarters MEDCOM.**

Terror attacks meet fast response from AMEDD

Army Medical Department people were among the first to help victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon, which left more than 100 dead or missing. Among the missing was LTC Karen J. Wagner, assigned to the Office of The Surgeon General as a medical personnel officer. (*Electric Mercury* Note: After the October *Mercury* went to press, Wagner was confirmed dead.) First caregivers on the scene were from DiLorenzo TRICARE Health Clinic, a jointly staffed facility in the Pentagon. Later came caregivers from Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Fort Belvoir, Va., MEDDAC; and experts from the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine. Armed Forces Institute of Pathology experts identified bodies. Elsewhere around the world, AMEDD people responded with heightened security, blood services, and other measures.

Angry all the time: military copes with domestic violence

Military organizations worldwide observe National Domestic Violence Prevention Month in October. The themes are "Support your neighbor: domestic violence is not a private matter" and "You can be both: dedicated soldier, loving spouse." There were more than 12,000 incidents of spouse abuse in military families in FY 1999. A national survey found 50 percent of men who frequently assaulted their wives also frequently abused their children. In a four-page insert with articles from a variety of military and civilian experts, the *Mercury* explores the nature and dynamics of domestic violence, programs the Army offers to help families affected by it, and safety tips for victims.

Transforming AMEDD updates MOSs

The Enlisted Personnel Management Directorate reclassified five MOSs on Oct. 1 and placed them under the Career Management Field 91 (medical). Optical Laboratory Specialists changed from MOS 42E to 91H; Patient Administration Specialists from 71G to 91G; and Medical Supply Specialists from 76J to 91J. The largest MOSs that changed are the Combat Medics (91B) and Practical Nurses (91C). They are being combined and reclassified as Health-Care Specialists (91W).

Other important stories in the October *Mercury* include:

● Army leaders increasingly recognize the human resource, writes Army Surgeon General and Medical Command commander LTG James B. Peake in his monthly column. They understand that the well-being of the soldier and his family affects the ability of the Army to perform the nation's missions, and Peake stresses that prevention of domestic violence (as discussed in this issue of the *Mercury*) is an important aspect of family well-being. Moreover, domestic violence places a direct burden on national and Army medical resources, and he provides some specific facts to demonstrate that impact.

● TRICARE For Life and TRICARE Plus began Oct. 1, bringing vast improvement in health-care benefits for retired military service members and their families over age 65.

● A study conducted by an Army preventive-medicine officer has calmed concerns that anthrax vaccinations might damage the reproductive success of military women. Tracking the health of 4,092 active-duty service women, MAJ Andrew R. Wiesen found that vaccinated soldiers are just as likely to get pregnant and are just as likely to give birth to healthy babies as unvaccinated soldiers are.

● More than 35,000 Boy Scouts and 34,000 visitors took part in demonstrations by 44th Medical Brigade units supporting the Boy Scout National Jamboree at Fort A. P. Hill, Va.

● Five Army Medical Department soldiers are touring Army installations with the Soldier Show this year, singing, dancing and performing technical support for the show. They are SPC Marcus L. Caruthers, 55th Medical Group, Fort Bragg, N.C.; SGT Janice M. Burns, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany; SPC Jennifer K. Sennhenn, a combat medic with a military police company, Fort Stewart, Ga.; SPC Jeffrey F. Larson, Fort Stewart, Ga., MEDDAC; and SPC Joey Beebe, Fort Polk, La., MEDDAC.

● John C. Hepburn of Walter Reed Army Medical Center has been named the Medical Command Auditor of the Year.

● Photos: SPC Betsy Martinez, 4219th U.S. Army Hospital, draws blood from a soldier processing for Stabilization Force 10 at Fort Dix, N.J.; SGT Elizabeth Rossa of 708th Medical Company and SPC David Hapka of 477th Ambulance Company load simulated patient at Fort McCoy, Wis., during Army Reserve's Exercise Golden Medic; Robert Westbrook of Fort Sam Houston, Texas, calls timeout after doubling during U.S. Military World Series softball tournament at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

● Commentary: Army News Service writers warn against the health and legal dangers associated with use of the drug Ecstasy; and Tripler Army Medical Center chaplain MAJ J. Gregg Hickman suggests that, when Daylight Savings Time ends, people should use the extra hour not to sleep longer but to reinforce their relationships with their loved ones.

● U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine article advises use of mouthguards to prevent needless dental damage due to sports injuries.